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HOLDER FOR INDIVIDUAL STENCILS AND THE LIKE

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Fig. 1.

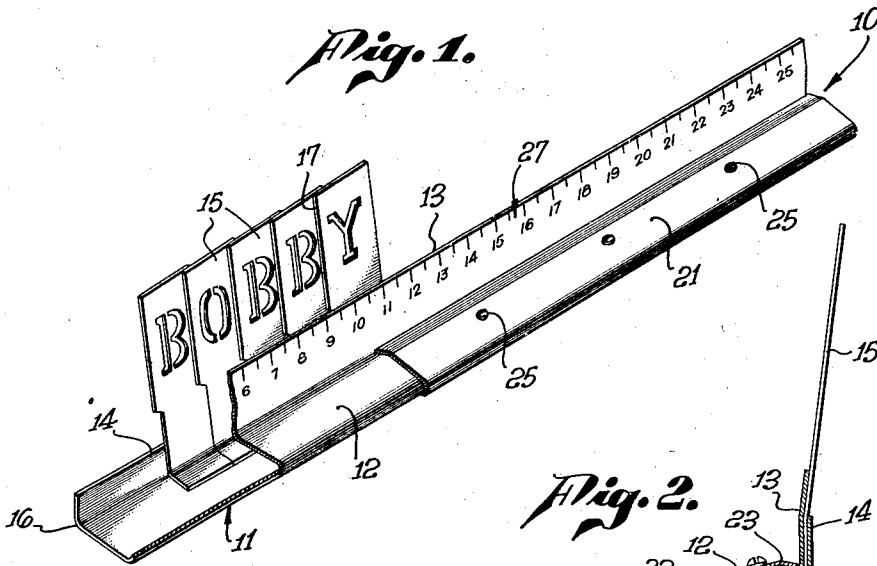


Fig. 2.

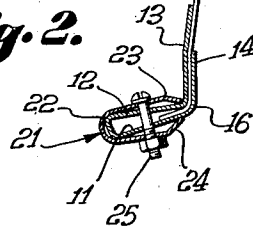
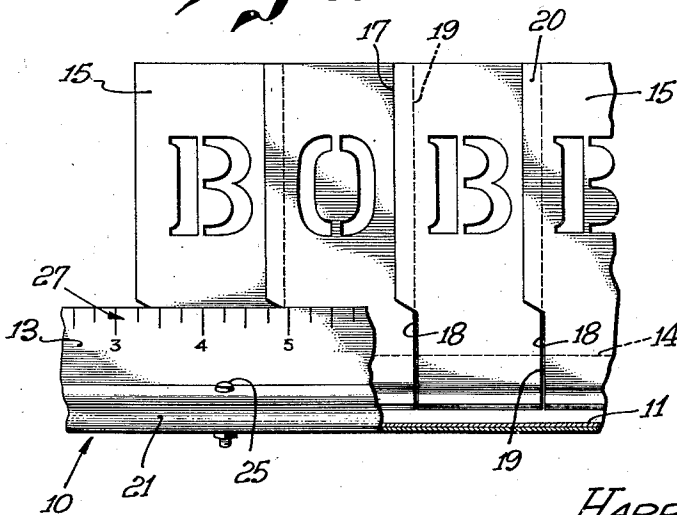


Fig. 3.



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HOLDER FOR INDIVIDUAL STENCILS
AND THE LIKE

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7 Claims. (Cl. 101-128)

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This invention has to do with improvements in stencils and stencil holders adaptable typically for use in stenciling aligned letters, numerals or symbols, particularly for places and purposes requiring the frequent making of different signs, advertisements and the like, as in stores and markets.

My general object is to provide a simple form of holder, and improved combination of holder and stencil, whereby individual or plural stencils may be quickly and easily assembled with exact alinement and proper spacing in the holder. Particularly, the invention aims to assure tight retention of the stencils in the holder against unintentional displacement or misalignment after the assembly is made up in tightened condition.

In accordance with the invention, the device is made in elongated form and so designed as to include a holding part proper between the sides or flanges of which the stencils are inserted and tightly engaged. Retention of the stencils against displacement is secured by a clamping part, preferably in the form of a resilient section which receives the inner part of the holder and applies pressure thereto, preferably at a localized point as hereinafter explained, in a manner effectively resisting movement of the stencils.

The invention further contemplates certain novel features in the form and interfitting relation of the individual stencils themselves as will appear, by virtue of certain shape characteristics; it is made possible to maintain successive stencils in edge-to-edge engagement within the holder, while maintaining the outer or exposed portions of the stencils in overlapping relation.

In its preferred form the invention contemplates various additional features and objects, as well as certain advantageous shape characteristics in the holder assembly, all of which however will be best understood by reference to the accompanying drawing illustrative of such preferred embodiment. In the drawing:

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing the holder and stencil assembly, outer portions of the holder being broken away to expose interior parts;

Fig. 2 is a cross-sectional view taken through the holder and stencil; and

Fig. 3 is an enlarged fragmentary plan view, illustrating particularly the shape and interfitting relation of the individual stencils.

The body of the holder generally indicated at 10 may be of any desired length in accordance with the aggregate lengths of the number of stencils which an individual holder may be adapted to contain. The body of the holder is of elongated form, preferably though typically made of metal, and comprising an inner stencil retaining section 11 formed of sheet metal dou-

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bled laterally upon itself to form in the operative position of the assembly illustrated in Fig. 3, an upstanding inside portion 12 and a pair of flanges 13 and 14 turned in angular relation to the portion 12. Normally the flanges are pressed into interengagement, but are capable of spreading apart to receive the stencils 15. By reference to Fig. 2 it will be noted that the lower flange 14, which in the operative position of the holder may be placed or rested against a flat surface, is of lesser width than the companion flange 13; and that if desired, the outer portion of the latter toward its edge, may be bent slightly toward the stencil. The normal interengagement between the flanges may extend substantially to the bend 16, so that the effect of the flanges is to engage and press against the stencils throughout their common widths and at the location of the bend, where localized pressure is applied as will now be described.

The holder may be used to retain stencils or the like in any suitable type or form, and individually having any number of letters or other symbols. For example, an individual stencil may include a series of letters spelling out a complete word, or each stencil may include only a single letter so that the alphabetic stock of the stencils may serve for the spelling of different words, as in making different signs, advertisements and the like. As illustrative, the holder 10 is shown to contain a series of individual letter stencils 15 made of suitable sheet and preferably resilient material such as Celluloid, metal or suitable plastic compositions. As shown in Fig. 3, individually the stencils may be generally rectangular in shape with offset edges 17 and 18 along one side so that when arranged in the holder the edges 18 may engage the adjacent straight edge 19 of the next stencil, thus providing for uniform spacing of the letters in accordance with their locations on the stencils and giving added support to the inner portions of the stencils retained in the holder, by virtue of their edge-to-edge engagement. The overlap at 20 between adjacent stencils is desirable to prevent the flow of ink or paint between the stencils and to facilitate application of the ink or paint to the cut-out letter areas by sweeping movement of a brush across the faces of the stencils.

Provision is made for the application of pressure to the holder flanges 13 and 14 in a manner tending to bring them tightly together and into secure holding engagement with the stencils 15. Preferably the pressure thus applied is concentrated at or near the bend 16 in order most effectively to resist outward withdrawal of the stencils from the holder, as well as to resist any tendency for lateral movement. The pressure is applied by a clamp 21 which may comprise a single sheet of

metal doubled about portion 12 of the holder, and if desired permanently secured thereto by soldering or welding at 22. The edge portion 23 and 24 of the clamp flanges may be bent inwardly to engage flanges 13 and 14 at or near the bend 16, and to be capable of resilient deformation as the clamp flanges are brought together. The clamp 21 may be taken up against the inner portion of the holder by any suitable means, as for example by tightening bolts 25 inserted through the assembly at suitable intervals longitudinally of the holder. With the bolts loosened, the stencils 15 may be readily inserted in the holder a distance sufficient to bring their inner edges past the bend 16 as shown in Fig. 2. Upon then tightening the bolts, the stencils are clamped securely against movement within the holder, and particularly so by virtue of the clamping force being localized at the bend 16.

In use, flange 14 and the stencils are applied to the surface of the sign, window or other object to be lettered, the straight edge of the holder and the alineability of the outer edges of the stencils assisting in maintaining proper alinement of the letters with relation to the work. Measurements as well as spacing of the letters or stencils may be facilitated by providing a scale 27 on the face of flange 13, as to permit measured spacing to be maintained between individual or composite stencils making up different words or symbols.

I claim:

1. A sign making device comprising an elongated holder formed of sheet material doubled laterally upon itself, said doubled material being bent at an angle along its length to provide a pair of engageable angular surfaces between which a stencil or the like is insertible and means for tightly confining the stencil between said surfaces.

2. A sign making device comprising an elongated holder formed of sheet material doubled laterally upon itself, said doubled material being bent at an angle along its length to provide an upstanding portion and a pair of angularly extending flanges one overlying the other and adapted to be placed horizontally on a surface, a stencil or the like being insertible between said flanges, and means for tightly confining the stencil between said flanges.

3. A sign making device comprising an elongated holder formed of sheet material doubled laterally upon itself, said doubled material being bent at an angle along its length to provide an upstanding portion and a pair of angularly extending flanges one overlying the other and adapted to be placed horizontally on a surface, the longitudinal edge of the upper flange projecting beyond the lower flange, a stencil or the like being insertible between said flanges, and means for tightly confining the stencil between said flanges.

4. A sign making device comprising an elongated holder formed of sheet material doubled laterally upon itself, said doubled material being bent at an angle along its length to provide an upstanding portion and a pair of angularly extending flanges one overlying the other and adapted to be placed horizontally on a surface, a stencil or the like being insertible between said flanges, clamping means extending longitudinally of and at the outside of said upstanding portion

of the holder, and means for tightening said clamping means to cause said flanges to be pressed together at their departure from said upstanding portion of the holder to tightly confine the stencil.

5. A sign making device comprising an elongated holder formed of sheet material doubled laterally upon itself, said doubled material being bent at an angle along its length to provide an upstanding portion and a pair of angularly extending flanges one overlying the other and adapted to be placed horizontally on a surface, a stencil or the like being insertible between said flanges, and a sheet metal clamp having sides extending longitudinally of and at the outsides of said upstanding portion of the holder, the lower edges of said clamp bearing against said holder at substantially the location where said flanges depart angularly from said upstanding portion, and means for urging said sides of the clamp together and against the holder to exert pressure on the stencil at said location.

6. A sign making device comprising an elongated holder formed of sheet material doubled laterally upon itself, said doubled material being bent at an angle along its length to provide an upstanding portion and a pair of angularly extending flanges one overlying the other and adapted to be placed horizontally on a surface, a stencil or the like being insertible between said flanges, and a sheet metal clamp having sides extending longitudinally of and at the outsides of said upstanding portion of the holder, the lower edges of said clamp bearing against said holder at substantially the location where said flanges depart angularly from said upstanding portion, and threaded fasteners extending through said clamp and holder and adapted to be tightened to urge said sides of the clamp together and against the holder to exert pressure on the stencil at said location.

7. A sign making device comprising an elongated holder of sheet material doubled laterally upon itself, said doubled material being bent at an angle along its length to provide a pair of engageable interfitting and bent angular flanges, and a series of individual stencils retained in side-by-side relation between said flanges, the inner ends of said stencils being bent in conformity with the flange angularity.

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